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PRC/TAIWAN: GUARDED RESPONSE TO REUNIFICATION GUIDELINES

An unnamed "leading" PRC official has expressed appreciation for Taiwan's recently announced reunification guidelines and its call for future official contacts and trade, mail, and transport links, while scoring Taiwan's "unreasonable conditions," according to *Xinhua*. A *People's Daily* commentary expressed delight with Taiwan's declared support for reunification but rejected its demand to be treated as an "independent and equal 'political entity.'"

Comment

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Taipei's insistence on—and Beijing's rejection of—Taiwan's equality remain a major stumbling block to direct negotiations and political relations.

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(For related information, see Analysis p. 11)

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